

*Speeches of  
H. W. Borden*

SPEECH

BY

HON. SIR E. W. BORDEN

ON THE

DISMISSAL

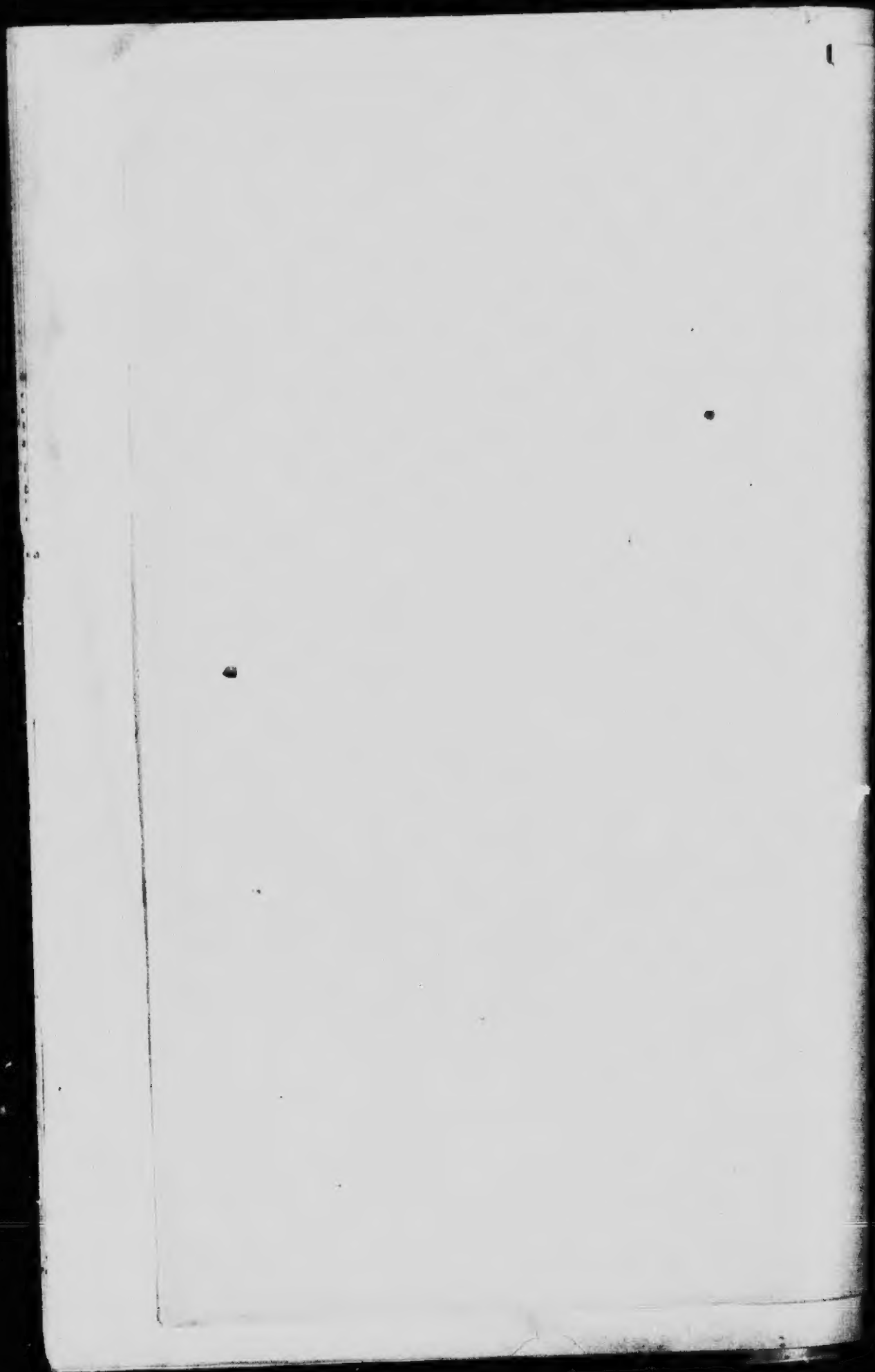
OF

Lord Dundonald.

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FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATES,

JULY 23, 1904.



# DISMISSAL OF LORD DUNDONALD.

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## SPEECH

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

BY

HON. SIR FREDERICK BORDEN

23RD JULY, 1904.

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On July 23rd, when the Finance Minister moved the House into Committee of Supply, Mr. R. L. Borden, leader of the Opposition, moved in amendment:

That all the words after the word "that" in the proposed motion be left out, and the following substituted therefor:

The selection and appointment of officers in the militia should be made without regard to party political considerations, which if permitted to exercise an influence will prove disastrous to the efficiency of the force.

That while the Minister of Militia is charged with and responsible for the administration of militia affairs the General Officer Commanding is by law charged under the orders of His Majesty with the military command and discipline of the militia, and with the duty of recommending to the Minister of Militia fit and proper persons for appointment to commissions therein.

That the conduct of the Honourable Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, in interfering with the commanding officer of the Thirteenth Scottish Light Dragoons while that officer was engaged in the duty of

selecting his subordinate officers for the approval of and for recommendation by the General Officer Commanding; and the action of that minister in interposing party political influence between the General Officer Commanding and his officers, and in requiring recommendations and appointments to be made or disallowed from party considerations, deserves, and should receive, the censure of this House.

The House regrets that this unwarrantable interference has been approved by the Government, and that it not only has unduly delayed the organization of the regiment, but has culminated in depriving the militia of Canada of an experienced and distinguished commanding officer.

In the course of the debate on this amendment the following speech was made by the Honourable Minister of Militia:

#### **SIR FREDERICK BORDEN'S SPEECH.**

Hon. Sir FREDERICK BORDEN (Minister of Militia and Defence). Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) saw fit to begin his oration by what I should think the hon. gentleman would have considered a most unworthy sneer at my hon. friend who sits on my left, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) by referring to his chickens and certain matters connected with the department over which he so ably presides. I want to tell my hon. friend that my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture occupies too important a place in the affections and regard of the people of this country to merit any sneers from him or from anybody else in regard to the duties which he discharges. My hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture does not need a champion in me. My hon. friend has made a statement here coolly, calmly and ably to-day, which, I am sure, will carry conviction to the people of this country, as it has carried conviction to every independent man in this House who has listened to him.

I will refer to a few points to which the hon. member for Jacques Cartier has alluded.

#### **LORD DUNDONALD'S ACT UNDEFENDED BY HIS CHAMPIONS.**

The hon. gentleman began by declaring himself to be a champion of that much injured nobleman, Lord Dundonald. He wished it to be distinctly understood that he was here, at least

as one friend, to stand by the Earl of Dundonald, but beyond that announcement, with a good deal of sound and fury, we heard scarcely any word in reference to Lord Dundonald. He was leading up, I supposed, to prove that Lord Dundonald's course was absolutely constitutional; but he had not gone far before he changed his mind, and he ended his speech by admitting, if words mean anything, that the course pursued by Lord Dundonald could not be defended, though at the same time claiming that our treatment of him was somewhat harsh. **SO IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION IN THIS HOUSE AS TO THE FACT THAT THE ACT COMMITTED BY LORD DUNDONALD WAS ABSOLUTELY INDEFENSIBLE AND IN VIOLATION OF EVERY RULE WHICH CONTROLS AN OFFICER OF THE GOVERNMENT; AND THAT IT WAS SUCH AS COULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS COUNTRY.** The hon. gentleman declared himself to be the champion of Lord Dundonald, though he forgot to perform the task which he had undertaken. It occurred to me that there might be a bond of sympathy between the two gentlemen. The hon. gentleman has been suffering recently. He had his head cut off not very long ago, and he can more fully sympathize with the Earl now in trouble and difficulty. It was chivalrous indeed for the hon. gentleman to come forward at this moment, feeling as he does the deepest sympathy, and being desirous of making known the fact that he realized his own position, and is ready to sympathize with another who is similarly situated. But the difference is that the hon. gentleman was disciplined by his own friends voluntarily, and of course he will hardly confess that he deserved it, as he is bound to admit that his friend whom he is championing did deserve what he got.

#### **THE MONTREAL DINNER SPEECH, AND WHY IT WAS MADE.**

Let me refer for a few moments to the observations which my hon. friend has made in reference to this case. He says at the outset that the dinner which Lord Dundonald attended was not a public dinner, that he was in the city of Montreal attending to his duties, that he was invited to dine with some friends, and that it was at a private dinner that all this occurred. How is it that at this private dinner Lord Dundonald had a newspaper reporter present, paid to be there, and that every word that was said was taken down by that newspaper reporter, although next morning an attempt was made, and successfully made, to prevent the publication of these notes in the Montreal "Gazette"? •



Mr. MONK. Does the hon. gentleman say that the General Officer Commanding had a newspaper reporter there paid to report his speech?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I am so informed.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I have no personal knowledge. At any rate, we have this curious fact that the only version of what was stated at the dinner, which Lord Dundonald admits to be authentic, was the version which was reported by that reporter. But, Sir, he told us that Lord Dundonald was in Montreal attending to his duties. We have read the correspondence which has been laid on the table of the House, and we have heard the statement which Lord Dundonald had read to this House by a prominent member of the Opposition, and from that we have learned that **LORD DUNDONALD WENT TO MONTREAL FOR WHAT PURPOSE? TO SEE COLONEL SMART, AND TO ASK COLONEL SMART TO WRITE A LETTER—A LETTER WHICH IS PUBLISHED IN LORD DUNDONALD'S STATEMENT—AND HE WENT TO MONTREAL TO BRING TOGETHER SOME OF HIS SUBORDINATE OFFICERS, IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT HUNT UP EVIDENCE TO FOUND A CHARGE AGAINST MY HON. FRIEND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND AGAINST THIS GOVERNMENT.** When he came to make that charge and to make that speech, how fair was he, how honorable was he, when by his own admission he knew that my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture was acting for me at the council board, when he knew that my hon. friend had in his hands at the time he erased the name of Pickel from the "Gazette," a letter from Colonel Smart—when he knew all these things, he made his speech at that dinner, which speech was taken down by his reporter, and he carefully avoided giving his hearers to understand the truth in reference to these facts?

Mr. HAGGART. Does the hon. gentleman say that Lord Dundonald knew of the erasure before it went to Council?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. No, I said that at the time Lord Dundonald made his speech in Montreal he knew that my hon. colleague had in his hands a letter from Colonel Smart, not only authorizing, but asking, my hon. friend to make that erasure.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Did my hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence not understand from the hon. Minister of Agriculture this evening, as I understood from him, that before

that letter had been received it had been arranged between him and Colonel Smart that the name should be struck out?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I do not know that that has any bearing upon the point. What I say is that **WHEN LORD DUNDONALD MADE THE STATEMENT AT THAT BANQUET, FINDING FAULT WITH THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, CHARGING HIM WITH ALTERING A DOCUMENT IMPROPERLY, HE KNEW THAT THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WAS ACTING FOR ME, AND HE KNEW THAT THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HAD THE AUTHORITY OF THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE REGIMENT TO STRIKE OUT THAT NAME.**

#### INSUBORDINATE TO THE LAST.

My hon. friend (Mr. Monk) has referred to as cruel the manner in which Lord Dundonald has been treated; and he says that this cruel treatment was because Lord Dundonald was notified of his dismissal by a cold every-day telegram. I would like to ask my hon. friend (Mr. Monk) what other means was in the hands of the Government or myself by which to inform Lord Dundonald—

Mr. MONK. As I have stated, when an officer of that rank is dismissed, a member of the headquarters staff is sent by special letter to bring him the message.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Seeing that Lord Dundonald was attending to the camp, where he had gone against my advice—

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. May I ask the hon. gentleman a question?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Sit down.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I can lay that letter on the table of the House if it is desired.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. May I ask a question? Did the Minister advise Lord Dundonald not to go to the London camp?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I did.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Hold on—before the Order in Council was passed dismissing him?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes.



Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Then you prejudged the case.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. No; my mind was made up.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. TISDALE. Will my hon. friend allow me—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. TISDALE. If you have any objection, I do not wish to interrupt. It was not quite plain whether the Minister said he did not understand that it was the custom of the War Office to send a special messenger on such occasions.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Well, it is a mere matter of three or four hours' journey for the War Office to send a messenger to any of the principal commands in the British Isles, but here it was a matter of a great many hundred miles, and it seemed to me the greatest possible act of kindness to let Lord Dundonald know at the earliest possible moment what had taken place, in order that he might not be in an awkward or unpleasant position. To prevent his getting into that position, **AFTER CONSULTING THE PRIME MINISTER, AND AS SOON AS I HEARD THAT LORD DUNDONALD INTENDED TO GO TO THE CAMP, I SENT A POLITE NOTE TO HIM TELLING HIM THAT I HAD HEARD THAT HE PROPOSED GOING TO THE CAMP, AND SUGGESTING THE PROPRIETY—THESE WERE THE WORDS I USED—SUGGESTING THE PROPRIETY OF HIS POSTPONING HIS VISIT TO THAT CAMP. I GOT AN ANSWER FROM HIM AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK THAT NIGHT, PRACTICALLY TO THIS EFFECT: THAT IF I HAD SAID "YOU MUST NOT GO," HE WOULD NOT HAVE GONE, BUT BECAUSE I DID NOT SAY SO, HE PROPOSED TO GO; AND HE WENT.** Therefore, it was necessary to send him a telegram, and if there was any great cruelty in that, I only wish to say that it was not intended. Our motives were absolutely the opposite of any unkindness or cruelty.

#### **MY LORD'S APPRECIATION OF FRIENDLY TREATMENT.**

Now the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) has said that Lord Dundonald had no quarrel with me, and that it was only the Minister of Agriculture with whom he had the quarrel.

Mr. MONK. I beg my hon. friend's pardon; I did not say that. I said the Minister of Agriculture had not laid the griev-

ance before you, or before the General Officer Commanding ; he seemed to have himself dealt with Colonel Smart.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I took the words of my hon. friend down: that Lord Dundonald worked harmoniously with me, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) did me the honor to read a speech of mine in proof of that. He read that speech to show that the official course of events was absolutely calm and without a ripple on its surface, except for this difficulty with the Minister of Agriculture. Well, surely my hon. friend (Mr. Monk) understands that when an officer of the Government makes an attack such as Lord Dundonald made upon my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture ; a most unfair attack, as I have shown ; a most misleading attack, as I have shown ; and when that officer attacks the whole Government at the same time, surely my hon. friend does not expect that the Minister of Militia, at the head of the department in which this official is an officer, is not to be affected by what the General Officer Commanding said under such circumstances.

I will show later on exactly the attitude of that gentleman towards this Government and towards myself, although I am quite prepared to admit that I misunderstood him. I made the speech which the hon. gentleman has quoted to-night. That speech may not do much credit to my head, or to my discernment, or to my brains, but I think it will be admitted that it does some credit to my heart, and that it proves, at any rate, that, so far as I was concerned, I was willing to do my very best to get along comfortably and satisfactorily with Lord Dundonald. I also was speaking to a meeting of officers at a dinner in Montreal, at which all the guests were, I believe, officers. But, instead of following the tactics of Lord Dundonald, by which he endeavored to prejudice these officers against those in authority, I took advantage of the occasion to endeavor to assist the General Officer Commanding.

### THE CONSTITUTIONAL PLACE OF A G. O. C.

My hon. friend (Mr. Monk) ventured the statement at the outset that the General Officer Commanding in Canada occupied a special position. He undertook to elaborate that argument, but I did not observe that he arrived at any conclusion. I followed him very closely, because I thought I was going to learn some new constitutional doctrine. I thought I was going to hear announced again, as used to be claimed many years ago, that because the officer who commands the militia of this country, under the laws of this country, must be under the present law

an Imperial officer, that therefore, by virtue of that fact, the General Officer Commanding possessed some special power with reference to the Canadian militia. I am glad to know that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) did not go to that extent, and so we are all agreed once more that there is no constitutional question at issue. If it were necessary to prove that there is no constitutional question at issue it could be easily done.

I have here under my hand quotations from speeches of some of the great men who have occupied the position of Secretary of State for War in England. I will not detain the House with them now; but both the Right Hon. Hugh C. Childers and Lord Cardwell, who occupied that position with great honor and distinction, have laid down most distinctly, and **TO-DAY THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, THE PROPOSITION THAT THE MINISTER HAS ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF EVERY OFFICER, INCLUDING THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF, IN THE WAR OFFICE.** You could not carry on government otherwise. It would be an absurdity. If the General Officer Commanding is to have these extraordinary powers, why should not a deputy minister have them? Carry that idea out to its legitimate conclusion, and you would have, not government, but chaos in the affairs of the country. So it is not worth while to waste time discussing it.

Mr. TISDALE. I think the hon. gentleman had better discuss it fully, for later on I may deal with it.

#### RT. HON. HUGH CHILDERS' OPINION.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I will read two of the authorities. First, I will read an extract from a speech of the Right Hon. Hugh C. Childers, delivered in 1882. It is to be found in a book entitled "Life of Right Hon. H. C. Childers," second volume, at page 56:

It has been suggested that of late years successive Secretaries of State for War have, in the government of the army, been encroaching on the functions of others. **THE ARMY, THESE CRITICS SAY, IS THE ARMY OF THE CROWN; we, Secretaries of State, forsooth, want to make it the army of the House of Commons. THE CROWN, THEY SAY, GOVERNS THE ARMY THROUGH THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF.** The Secretary of State is the mere financial officer, who has gradually intruded on the province of the Crown by means of the power of the purse.

Now, gentlemen, I am bound to tell you that all this is a mere delusion. These writers ought to reflect that to no one can the wrongful attribution of power be more distasteful than the sovereign herself. The Queen, gentlemen, as she is the most just and wise, so is she the most constitutional of sovereigns. **THE QUEEN IS THE UNDOUBTED HEAD OF THE ARMY; SHE IS ALSO THE HEAD OF THE NAVY, AND OF EVERY BRANCH OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE. AS SUCH SHE CAN DO NO WRONG. BUT SHE DOES NO WRONG FOR THE EXPRESS REASON THAT ALL HER ACTS ARE THE ACTS OF HER RESPONSIBLE MINISTERS.** The doctrine of personal government which you have seen so undisguisedly claimed in Prussia within the last few days, is absolutely unknown to our constitution.

This is not a matter of custom or unwritten law. The functions of the Secretary of State for War, as "administering the royal authority and prerogative in respect of the army," are laid down with great precision by the order of the Queen in Council of June, 1870. Under him there are three great departments, the heads of which are equally responsible to him; the Commander in Chief for the Military Department, the Surveyor-General for the Ordnance and Supply Department, the Financial Secretary for the Finance Department. **NO ACT OF DISCIPLINE CAN BE EXERCISED, NO APPOINTMENT OR PROMOTION CAN BE MADE, NO TROOPS CAN BE MOVED, NO PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE, WITHOUT THE APPROVAL, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE. TO SAY THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS NO CONTROLLING POWER IN SUCH MATTERS, WHEN HE IS RESPONSIBLE TO PARLIAMENT FOR ANY IMPROPER EXERCISE OF THE QUEEN'S PREROGATIVE IN REGARD TO THEM IS MANIFESTLY ABSURD.** On this subject I have never known any misapprehension within the walls of the War Office or in Parliament.

### LORD CARDWELL'S VIEWS.

I will also read an extract from a book entitled "Lord Cardwell at the War Office," by Sir Robert Biddulph, at page 239:

Thus was the question of the royal prerogative with regard to the command of the army placed on a constitutional basis. "The General Commanding-in-Chief was formally declared to be a subordinate of the Minister of War"; and that Minister was declared to be the channel through whom the Sovereign's commands were to be conveyed to the army.

All military work hitherto done at the War Office was transferred to the Horse Guards, both offices being made one, so that correspondence between the two offices should cease; **IT BEING CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT NO QUESTION SHOULD ARISE TO PREVENT THE SECRETARY OF STATE FROM SENDING FOR ANY OFFICER OR ANY CLERK IN ANY MILITARY OFFICE, IF HE WISHED TO EXAMINE HIM ON A QUESTION OF DOUBT.**

Under the British constitution, the Secretary of State is necessarily a member of Parliament, and must usually be a civilian, and therefore without that sort of knowledge that pertains to a life spent in the military service. This is an unavoidable result of our parliamentary system, and as it could not be changed, it was necessary to make the best arrangement for working it. To this end, it appeared to Lord Cardwell that the Secretary of State should surround himself with the best officers in the army as the heads of the various departments, so that, after freely consulting them, he could form a sound judgment and come to a clear conclusion upon the great questions submitted for his decision.

### HOW CORPS OF MILITIA ARE ORGANIZED IN CANADA.

The hon. gentleman has said a great deal about my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture not having any power to act as Minister of Militia. Well, in answer to that I would ask him whether the act which my hon. friend did is valid or invalid. If it is valid, I presume he had the power.



My hon. friend has also said that no minister outside of the Minister of Militia, no politician—no political man, to use his own words—has any right to advise or to use any influence in connection with the organization of a corps of militia. Well, it seems to me that no more absurd proposition could be put forward. If we were dealing with a regular army, I could understand that. But **WE ARE DEALING WITH A MILITIA FORCE, WITH A CITIZEN ARMY, NOT A REGULAR ARMY. WE HAVE NO REGULAR ARMY. WE MUST LOOK TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY TO BUILD UP OUR MILITIA, AND WE MUST LOOK TO THE INFLUENTIAL MEN.** We want the co-operation and assistance of the influential men throughout Canada to assist us in building up the militia; and can you find an influential man in Canada—I was going to say a man worth his salt—who has not some political views or ideas? I think it would be very difficult to find one; and the practice in this country, in organizing new corps, has been to go at once to the most influential man in the county and enlist his influence.

#### UTILITY OF PROMINENT MEN IN THE WORK.

In the organization of the militia in 1868, in which I took part, I remember very well that the man who was selected in my own county to organize the regiment, of which I became a member afterwards, and which exists to this day in that county, was a member of Parliament. And in every county of Nova Scotia some prominent man was selected to organize the militia in that county immediately after Confederation. The same course, I presume, was followed in every other part of the Dominion. Of necessity such a course had to be followed. **ARE WE TO BE TOLD, THEN, THAT BECAUSE MY HON. FRIEND HAPPENS TO BE A MEMBER FOR ONE OF THE EASTERN TOWNSHIP COUNTIES, AND A MEMBER OF THE CABINET LIVING IN THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS, AND CONSEQUENTLY SPECIALLY CHARGED WITH LOOKING AFTER THE WELFARE OF THAT SECTION OF COUNTRY, HE IS THEREFORE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM TAKING ANY PART IN THE ORGANIZATION OF AN IMPORTANT MILITIA CORPS IN THAT COMMUNITY?** I should say that that was a very good reason why his co-operation and assistance should be sought in such an important work. At any rate, such is the course which had always hitherto been followed; and right here let me point out the difference between ordinary promotions and ordinary appointments in the regular course, and the establishment and organization of a

corps which had heretofore no existence. Why, hon. gentlemen opposite seem to have lost their heads over this matter. The General Officer Commanding ought to have known better. Had he reflected he would have known that in Great Britain, whenever a volunteer corps is to be organized, whenever a corps of yeomanry is to be established, the Lord Lieutenant of the county is the man in whose hands the law has placed the giving of these official positions.

Mr. HAGGART. Hear, hear.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. And who is the Lord Lieutenant? He is an appointee of the Government of the day.

Mr. HAGGART. Hear, hear.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I wish merely to add that, so far from receding, so far from refusing to accept full responsibility, I wish it to be considered that I have accepted to the fullest extent responsibility for everything my hon. colleague has done. The only thing that I regret is that I happened to be away from Ottawa in the city of Boston for five or six weeks at the beginning of the year, during which period the organization of this corps was taken up. Had I been here, I would have spoken to my hon. friend, and very likely the unfortunate difficulties which have occurred might not have taken place.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

#### **DEPARTURE FROM A SOUND RULE IN THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS BY THE G. O. C.**

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Another fact worth noting is this. The General Officer Commanding, instead of pursuing the usual course—a course which I never knew to have been departed from previously—instead of going to the District Officer Commanding in the district in which this corps was to be organized, saw fit to go outside of the district altogether, and call to his assistance gentlemen who were not citizens of that particular district. I am not objecting to the officers he chose as his advisers, but I do say that he ought to have placed the organization of this corps chiefly under the control and management of the District Officer Commanding in the district in which it was organized. Why he departed from this sound rule I do not know. **WHY THIS STICKLER FOR PROPRIETY AND ETIQUETTE, WHO HAS SUFFERED SO MUCH DURING**

**HIS TWO YEARS' RESIDENCE IN OTTAWA FROM THE LACK OF REGARD FOR ETIQUETTE, SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN TO DEPART FROM THIS GOOD, SOUND RULE AND THUS ADMINISTER AN UNJUSTIFIABLE AND UNMERITED SNUB TO THE DISTRICT OFFICER COMMANDING IN THAT DISTRICT, I AM AT A LOSS TO KNOW.** He did, however, depart from that rule. The District Officer Commanding in that district happens to be a worthy French-Canadian, and I am not aware whether that fact had anything to do with the general's taking the course he did or not. I certainly hope it had not.

Mr. SAM HUGHES. Are we to understand that Colonel Roy, who is the District Officer Commanding in the division, had no part in the organization of that regiment?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Nothing, except—

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I have data to the contrary.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I know that the hon. gentleman is very well versed in these matters, but I can tell him that Colonel Roy was simply made use of as a means of registering or passing papers from Colonel Smart and Colonel Whitley to the General and back again. That was all.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I would like to ask whether the hon. Minister will inquire of Colonel Roy whether or not he took any part in the organization of this regiment. I have heard that he did, and I think that my hon. friend, if he makes inquiry, may perhaps find correspondence to show that he did. I think it is as well that we should be under no misapprehension about it, particularly as the Minister has suggested—for some reason I cannot comprehend—that Colonel Roy was overlooked in some way because he is a French-Canadian. I do not know that Lord Dundonald was worthy of that reflection on his character.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. We will investigate as to his worth as we go on. The concluding part of my hon. friend's remarks, and the only part in which he seemed to pay very much attention to the General, whose cause he has offered to champion, consisted of the statement that he thought such an eminent soldier, when he was brought out to this country to take charge of our militia affairs, should have been given carte blanche to do as he liked. Well, I do not believe that my hon. friend's leader would approve of that theory. I do not know. But he might find himself getting into somewhat deep water if he were to follow such a liberal course as that.

## DUNDONALD'S PRONUNCIAMENTO.

Now, Mr. Speaker, since the broader question has inevitably come under review, it will be expected that I should devote some attention to the pronunciamento or address which the late General Officer Commanding has seen fit to issue to the people of Canada. My hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) has referred to some of the interesting portions of this address, this appeal from the Government to the people of Canada.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Mr. Speaker, if the Minister would permit me—I do not wish to raise the point of order, though I must say I do not think that the point he is now discussing is relevant. It has nothing to do with the conduct of the Minister of Agriculture. But my point in the matter is this—that the Minister of Militia will have, at a very early day, ample opportunity in this House, and on a similar motion to this, to discuss the document to which he refers.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I think that if there were no other reasons, the House would agree with me that the nature of the document to which I refer, its references to myself, would be a sufficient justification for me to take advantage of the very earliest opportunity to discuss it. We will take advantage of the other opportunities also when they arise. Now, Sir, I observe that the concluding words of the resolution we are now discussing are as follows :

The House regrets that this unwarrantable interference approved by the Government not only has unduly delayed the organization of the regiment, but has culminated in depriving the militia of Canada of an experienced and distinguished commanding officer.

Well, now, as my hon. colleague (Mr. Fisher) has pointed out, this statement, this address to the people of Canada, states otherwise. This address to the people of Canada contains statements which the people of Canada, no doubt, will read with surprise, after having read the speech in Montreal, and after having read the letter to me, in answer to the enquiry I made in reference to that speech, in which the ex-Commanding Officer declared that he had no notes on that occasion with reference to the question which we have been discussing here to-night. And also they must have been surprised when they learned of the tremendous effort that was made to suppress and prevent the publication of the report of that speech at Montreal.

## DELIBERATION AND CAREFUL PLAN IN THE MONTREAL SPEECH.

But I suppose they are bound to believe the statement which this gentleman makes in the calm of his own office, and, evidently after very careful consideration and deliberation. In this statement he tells us that **THE SPEECH AT MONTREAL WAS NO SUDDEN EBULLITION, BUT THAT HE HAD GONE DOWN THERE WITH THE GREATEST DELIBERATION AND WITH THE INTENTION OF PRECIPITATING THE CRISIS WHICH HE HAD BEEN CAREFULLY WATCHING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRECIPITATE FOR MONTHS, IF NOT FOR YEARS.** And one cannot help trying to understand the mental, not to say the moral, make-up of the man who, while having this in mind, goes every day to his office, meets his chief day after day, proffers him the hand of friendship—or professes to—writes him polite notes, professes to be engaged in full sympathy with him, and occasionally even indulges in paying him a compliment ;—I say it is difficult to understand the mental and moral make-up of the man who could do that and carry it on, not for days, nor for weeks, but, confessedly, for months. And what is the object which the gentleman states as the justification for this course? Oh, his object was to save not exactly his country, but this benighted country of Canada. He was to be the saviour of this country. And one can imagine the stress under which this high-minded nobleman, day after day, felt impelled to go to his work, acting this double part, even though he did it because of the great benefit which he was going to confer upon this country of his temporary adoption. I do not think we need to go much further in order, I will not say to understand, but to wonder at, the condition of mind in which such a man must have been. And we cannot go very far in that line of reflection and investigation without being satisfied that the people of Canada, at any rate, do not want public servants of that kind.

### "MYSELF AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA."

He begins this extraordinary document in these words :

Considering it desirable that I should lay before the people of Canada a statement of my position with reference to the difficulty between myself and the Government of Canada—



"Myself." "Myself and the Government of Canada." In that phrase you have the explanation of the whole difficulty. A more highly concentrated exhibition of egotism and self-assertion than is to be found in these words cannot, I believe, be found in the English language. "Myself." Who is this gentleman who speaks of himself first and the Government of Canada afterwards? Why, Mr. Speaker, it is almost necessary to have the Order in Council before one to enable one to believe—in view of the words I have just read—that this gentleman was appointed by Order in Council of the very same government, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General, to an official position under the Minister of Militia in July, 1902. But the gentleman is going to take charge of things in this country! Well, let me say this, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman has one thing to learn before he can become dictator. Before he governs Canada, he must learn to govern himself. The hon. gentleman is precipitating in this country, or trying to—I do not think it can last very long—the kind of conflict of which history tells us, conflicts which were of frequent occurrence about two centuries ago, when there was a constant struggle for supremacy between the military and the civil side of society. Happily that question was settled in all Anglo-Saxon countries, settled in the Mother Country one hundred years ago. I do not think we need fear that a campaign of that kind will proceed very far in this country.

The manifesto makes several references to myself which I think I should deal with now, at the very earliest opportunity which has presented itself. He has said that he did not seek to impose his policy, but simply wished to take control—because he used the word "control"—of the technical administration of the department. Well, I do not know what he calls policy, but I should suppose that any development of the militia in this country which involves a large expenditure of money would be considered to be a question of policy; with those questions the Government felt under obligation to deal, and in dealing with those questions, I am bound to say I have had the greatest difficulty in the world in keeping this officer anywhere within bounds, as I shall attempt to prove as I proceed.

#### MY LORD CHARGES "INTERFERENCE" BY THE CONSTITUTED AUTHORITIES OF THE PEOPLE.

He has divided his attack upon the administration into two parts. On the one hand, he charges "interference"; on the other hand, he charges "indifference," two things which do not logically come together. But the late General Officer Com-

manding is not always logical any more than he is always considerate of the absolute, literal truth of the statements he makes. He says that he was subjected to interference. "Interference," forsooth ! Interference by whom ? **INTERFERENCE BY THE REGULARLY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITIES OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY, INTERFERENCE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS COUNTRY, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE, THE PEOPLE WHO WERE PAYING HIM FOR THE SERVICES WHICH HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE GIVING.** Well, let us see in what respects he attempts to make good these charges. As one of the reasons why he wished to "let daylight" into the proceedings of the Militia Department, etc., he refers to the fact that a new militia law was about to be introduced. These are the words he used :

I realized, moreover, that the new Militia Bill would soon be discussed in Parliament, and that it was my duty to give a warning of certain dangers before it was too late.

Not to his Minister, not to the Government—because, if he could not get my ear, he might have gone to the Prime Minister—but he must make an appeal to the people, because, forsooth, in my wisdom, I saw fit to introduce into this House a much-needed Militia Bill, and was about to put it through. What was the matter with the General Officer Commanding ? He saw in that bill and learned from my statements in this House that I approved of a new system which has been adopted in England, by which the services of the Commander-in-Chief are dispensed with, and **HE TOOK ALARM, AND WAS DETERMINED, WITHOUT MAKING AN EFFORT TO CONVINCE ME THAT I WAS WRONG IN MY PROPOSAL, TO APPEAL OVER MY HEAD AND BEYOND THE GOVERNMENT, TO THE PEOPLE, IN ORDER TO PREVENT ME FROM CARRYING THE MILITIA BILL THROUGH HIS HOUSE.**

The first charge which he makes is that Part II. of his annual report was suppressed, that is, his report of 1902. He says :

One extremely serious case of interference was the suppression of the important parts of my first annual report on the militia. After studying the situation with great care, I came to certain conclusions, and thought out certain plans. For convenience of reference, I divided my report for the year 1902 into two halves.

Part I. was a simple diary of events. Part II. contained my description of the condition of the militia, and an outline of a comprehensive scheme for reorganizing the force upon lines suitable to the country. This part was fully intended by me for publication. It contained nothing that could be described as a military secret. It covered matter such as is constantly made public in Great Britain and the United States. In my judgment it was information as to the actual condition and possibilities of the militia which it was desirable for the people of Canada to know.

This part of the report Sir Frederick Borden suppressed against my protest.

### **MARK THESE WORDS "AGAINST MY PROTEST."**

In the House of Commons at various times he described this part of the report as "private."

Mark that word "private!"

"Confidential" and "secret." It was neither private,—

Mark that.

"Confidential," nor "secret." When the Minister made these statements he had been explicitly informed by me that I desired its publication. He went so far on one occasion as to compare the report to the secret report on Canadian defence.

With that report my report had no analogy.

That is so far as the first report is concerned. What are the facts? The facts I will endeavor as briefly as possible to place before the House. It will be remembered that last year a question was put upon the order paper by the hon. member for North Victoria (Mr. Hughes) and answered by me. I have the references from Hansard here. I will not read them, but the question was substantially this: It had been stated in the English and Canadian papers that a report had been written by the General Officer Commanding which had not been printed and I was asked whether it was my intention to print it. I GAVE AS THE REASON WHY IT HAD NOT BEEN PRINTED, THAT I CONSIDERED THE DOCUMENT TO BE CONFIDENTIAL, AND I PROPOSED TO TREAT IT IN THAT WAY. Later on my hon. friend from South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) brought the matter up in the House, and asked some questions, and I replied to him in the same sense. I stated

that I would be very glad to submit the report to a committee of the House, composed of the hon. leader of the Opposition and any hon. gentleman whom he might name, together with some hon. gentlemen on this side of the House who might be interested in the matter. I took the ground, which I am sure would have been taken in England under similar circumstances, that this was a report not then, at any rate, proper to be published, and I gave my reasons. Lord Dundonald states that he urged the publication, that he protested against the refusal of its publication, and that it was not marked by him "private." I do not know that it would matter very much, although, as a matter of fact, I will be able to show that it was marked "private." But that does not matter, because I am the judge, I think, as the responsible Minister to the people of this country, whether a report should be published or not, or when it should be published.

Mr. LENNOX. It does not apply to the railway company.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. What does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lennox) say?

Mr. LENNOX. It does not apply to the railway company.

Mr. HEYD. He would be sure to say something foolish.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I do not know what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lennox) means. I have here the correspondence which passed between Lord Dundonald and myself in reference to this report.

Mr. INGRAM. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman a question.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes.

Mr. INGRAM. The hon. gentleman did not bring that report down to Parliament last session. Has anything been stated to the public or has anything been stated outside of this Parliament in connection with that document other than what the hon. gentleman stated last year during the session?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Not by me, but I think that by the General Officer Commanding a good deal has been stated.

Mr. INGRAM. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. What I wish to know is: Was there any statement to the effect that a very expensive scheme had been laid down by the major-general and was that authorized by the hon. gentleman to be stated publicly outside of this Parliament or inside of this Parliament?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I said nothing about an expensive scheme that I am aware of.

Mr. INGRAM. And the hon. gentleman did not authorize his department to do so?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. A statement was made in the newspapers, and by some extraordinary and mysterious method reports of what is going on in the Militia Department have frequently been published in England, and before they were published in this country.

Mr. INGRAM. Is that how the Globe got it?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I do not know. It was not stated by me or with my authority. **BUT HERE IS THE FACT: THIS LETTER IS THE COVERING LETTER OF THIS REPORT.** It is a letter from Lord Dundonald to me. I have secured from Lord Dundonald consent to publish this letter. I could not do it until I had secured that consent because it was marked "private." It is as follows:

Creighton Lodge,

Ottawa, Jan. 29, 1903.

"Private."

Dear Sir Frederick,—I am sending you with this my report for the year 1902. I only received the last of the sub-reports to me last Saturday—there has been, as you are aware, a great deal of work involved, first in becoming acquainted with a system, then in discovering its weaknesses, then in suggesting remedies for improvement. I hope that the recommendations I make will commend themselves to you. I think they will, as from our conversations I believe we agree on many essential points. I don't think the country can obtain a cheaper or a more efficient system for money expended than the one outlined, if only you can see your way to get it adopted and the proper funds voted.

I am still confined to the house, but hope to get out to-morrow, and shall look forward to seeing you Monday at latest if convenient to you.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) DUNDONALD.



This is the covering letter of the report under consideration marked "private." On the 31st of January, two days later, I wrote the following letter marked "private" also :

Ottawa, 31st Jan., 1904.

Dear Lord Dundonald,—I have carefully read your very interesting and able report. I don't know whether you intend Part II. to form part of the annual report of the Minister of Militia and Defence for this year (i.e., 1902), but **I AM AFRAID IT WOULD NOT DO TO PUT FORWARD A SCHEME WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN CONSIDERED AS A WHOLE, EVEN BY THE MINISTER, AND OF WHICH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CABINET HAVE AS YET HAD ABSOLUTELY NO OPPORTUNITY OF KNOWING ANYTHING. BESIDES, THERE IS THE VERY GRAVE QUESTION OF PROPRIETY OF GIVING SUCH A SCHEME TO THE WORLD ; AT ANY RATE, IN SUCH DETAIL.** Furthermore, you are aware that a scheme was recommended by the Defence Committee of 1898, approved by the War Office, and adopted by the Canadian Government. I think it will be necessary to carefully compare your proposals with those of the committee.

Then there is the financial question. It is absolutely necessary that I should have a carefully prepared estimate of the cost involved in your proposals before they can be considered by the Government. Will you kindly furnish this at your earliest convenience ?

**IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOUR REPORT II. SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A CONFIDENTIAL PAPER FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE MINISTER AND OF THE CABINET, AND I TRUST YOU WILL SEE THE FORCE OF THIS AND OF THE OTHER REASONS I HAVE GIVEN AGAINST PUBLICATION, AT ANY RATE AT THIS TIME.**

I shall be glad to see you on Tuesday next, if convenient for you, when we can perhaps settle upon what should be published as part of the annual report.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) F. W. BORDEN.

On the 11th of February I received this note :

Dear Sir Frederick,—Yes, I will let you have the report with slight amendments as suggested almost at once. Will you let me have the part you have, and I will let you have the whole back in a few hours ?

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) DUNDONALD.

I sent the report at once. On the 21st of February I still was without the report, and I wrote this letter :

Dear Lord Dundonald,—I would like to again call attention to my letter of the 31st ultimo dealing with your annual report. After very careful consideration of the matter since that letter was written, I am more than ever convinced of the correctness of the views therein expressed.

**IT IS QUITE OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE OF AN ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL REPORT TO PROPOUND A SCHEME OR POLICY OF DEFENCE, AND THEREFORE I MUST ASK YOU TO BE GOOD ENOUGH TO OMIT PART II. (SO CALLED) FROM YOUR REPORT, AND TO AMEND PART I. ACCORDINGLY.**

I shall be quite ready, however, to approve of the insertion in your annual report of a clause stating that you have prepared for my information a scheme which you think would (to use the words of the heading to Part II.) "conduce to the greater efficiency of the militia as a fighting force."

May I ask, therefore, that the annual report be amended as above suggested, and placed in my hands to-day, so that it may go to the printer.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) F. W. BORDEN.

On the 28th of February I received this note :

Dear Sir Frederick,—I return the report divided as you wish. There was a difficulty in getting the work done Saturday, owing to the day being a half holiday.

Very truly,

(Sgd.) DUNDONALD.

P.S.—I go to Kingston at 11 a.m. to visit the Royal Military College, etc.

Here is another letter of mine :

February 23rd, 1903.

Dear Lord Dundonald,—Thanks for your letter of this date and the amended annual report.

I have been obliged to make a few unimportant changes, which cannot be delayed for your return from Kingston.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) F. W. BORDEN.

That ended the incident, so far as the report was concerned ; but on the 3rd of March I wrote the following letter :

Major-General, The Earl of Dundonald, Ottawa.

My Dear Lord Dundonald,—Will you be good enough to have the financial statement, showing approximate expense involved in your plan of reorganization of the militia, completed and sent in to me as soon as possible? I wish to discuss this and other matters pertaining to them with my colleagues and cannot do so without the memorandum showing the cost.

Instead of making the statement simply to show the additions, I would be glad if you would show the whole expenditure on capital and income account, respectively, under your proposals.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) F. W. BORDEN.

Now, that is the record. **DOES THAT RECORD BEAR OUT THE STATEMENT WHICH THIS RIGHT HON. GENTLEMAN HAS SEEN FIT TO MAKE IN THIS ADDRESS OF HIS TO THE PEOPLE OF CANADA?**

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Yes.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Who says "yes"?

Mr. CASGRAIN. I do.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. In the first place, he says that I suppressed the report. Well, I think I can now be relieved from a charge of that kind. He says that it was in no sense private. Well, it was marked "private."

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The report ?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The letter covering the report.

Mr. SPROULE. Is not the gist of your letter to the General Officer Commanding that such a report could not be well given to the public, because it was not considered by the Cabinet, and, even though it were considered, it would not be wise to give it ?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. He sent me his report under cover of a private letter. He says that he protested. If he protested I never received his protest. Now, I think, for a gentleman to make such an unwarranted statement as that to the public of Canada, charging me with the suppression of public documents, with misusing a document and misleading this House and the country, is rather a serious matter, and one which is perhaps the most serious and grave offence which he has committed.

Mr. MONK. May I ask my hon. friend if we will have that report ?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I will come to that before I get through.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The Toronto Globe has it already.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. We have heard a good deal about coincidences, and we have some coincidences in this connection. A persistent demand for this report has come from gentlemen on the opposite side of the House, and there have been references to it in the English papers, which, I say, did not come from me, or from any officer in my department, so far as I know—unless it came from the General Officer Commanding himself.

Mr. KEMP. That is not fair.

Some hon. MEMBERS. It is fair.

#### A POINTED WORD OF COMPLAINT AGAINST A CERTAIN NEWSPAPER AND ITS EDITOR IN THIS MATTER.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Just here I may be permitted to record a complaint against certain of the newspapers in this country for their treatment of me in this matter. I am not in the habit of making complaints of this kind ; in fact, I am

bound to say that I never have had very much reason to ; but it seems to me somewhat unfair—not to characterize it in a stronger way—and it seems a coincidence also, that the newspaper which first published the authorized edition of this manifesto has referred to me in its editorial column in these words, speaking of Lord Dundonald's statement :

**THAT MEANS THAT SIR FREDERICK BORDEN LIED—LIED FROM HIS SEAT IN THE HOUSE, LIED IN AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE.**

From the Toronto News, June 20th ; J. S. Willison, managing director. I had expected different treatment from that source, from any source. I did not suppose that any newspaper edited outside of Billingsgate could indulge in language of that kind. And this is a paper which assumes a high moral tone in this country ; a paper which was started to show the every-day people of Canada, who did not know anything about their work—such as my hon. friend of the World, for instance—how to run a newspaper. **THIS IS THE MAN WHO IS POSING AS BEING TOO GOOD TO EDIT THE TORONTO GLOBE ANY LONGER.** He got out of that ; he was to be translated to a higher sphere. The Globe never published such a contemptible reference to any man on any side of politics in this country, I am happy to say. If it had no regard for me, if it had no regard for itself, if it had no regard for the amenities and decencies of life, it should have some regard and some respect for the position which, for the time being, I have the honor to hold in this country.

#### **ON THE REFUSAL TO PUBLISH DUNDONALD'S SECOND REPORT.**

Now, Mr. Speaker, the next charge is that I refused to publish Lord Dundonald's second report of the year 1903. I have his letter with reference to that. He wrote the report and sent it to me with the following letter—this time the letter was not marked "private" :

To Hon. Sir Frederick Borden.

Ottawa, 1st March, 1904.

Dear Sir Frederick Borden,—Herewith I inclose my report for the year 1903. You will observe on page 23 of the report that I make reference to the necessity for



reports from the heads of certain important branches. These branches having to do with the supply of material and with the requirements of mobilization, the reports from them should, in my opinion, be published with the report of the General Officer Commanding.

Those that I now inclose—from the quartermaster-general and the director-general of engineer services—appear, in my opinion, to be more in the nature of memoranda on matters of a minor nature than reports on the important subjects with which those officers are appointed to deal, and, perhaps, you would kindly use your discretion as to whether they should go into the blue-book or not. Next year I hope the reports from these officers will be of such a nature that they will be read with interest and be above adverse criticism.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) DUNDONALD.

Well, Sir, I read this report, and I found that, like its predecessor, it contained things which I could not publish. I sent for Lord Dundonald, and I spent a good deal of time with the report, reading over every word of it, and marking in pencil the parts to which I objected. I did not object to the report so much as I objected to the publication of certain portions, and I wished him to amend it, and he, as I supposed, agreed to do so. Some of the objections which I made to it were that it referred to documents which had not been brought down to Parliament, which there was no intention to bring down. **I INFORMED HIM THAT THE MOMENT THAT REPORT WAS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE, THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK FOR THE DOCUMENTS ; AND, AS WE DID NOT WISH TO BRING THE DOCUMENTS DOWN, I DID NOT WISH THOSE REFERENCES PUT IN THE REPORT.** I pointed out to him several instances in which he had put in his report references to matters which had been before me—matters of detail, matters of routine in the department, matters of very trivial consequence, and matters of principle in which I had differed from him, and to which I had refused to give my consent. **I ASKED HIM IF HE PROPOSED TO APPEAL FROM ME TO PARLIAMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY. HE AGREED TO MAKE CHANGES ; HE AGREED TO OMIT THE PORTIONS OF THE REPORT**

**TO WHICH I OBJECTED.** He took it away with him, and, after keeping it nearly three weeks, sent it back. I returned it to him with this letter, by a messenger :

Ottawa, 28th March, 1904.

Dear Lord Dundonald,—Referring to your letter of the 1st instant, I will send you to-day a copy of your report as I propose to have it printed in my annual report. I have omitted certain things, and have made a few slight verbal changes which do not in any way alter the meaning. As I have explained to you very fully the reasons for the omissions I am making, I need not go into that matter in this letter.

With reference to the reports from heads of important branches, which you think should be fuller, I am inclined to agree with you, and would feel disposed to print as large a portion of them as possible, and I think the reports should be prepared with that contingency in view.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) F. W. BORDEN.

This amended report, which he says was cut and carved, as if he knew nothing about it, was sent to him by a messenger on the 28th of March, and delivered to him. In due course the report went to the printer, and on the 21st of April I received this letter from Lord Dundonald :

Ottawa, April 21st, 1904.

Dear Sir Frederick Borden,—I have just received the printer's proof of my report for 1903 as revised by you for publication, and have returned it. While acquiescing in the changes you have made because you so insist, I wish to point out that my true report is the one originally sent in, and that the unpublished portion of it is consequently with you as my opinion for the betterment of the force

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) DUNDONALD.

There was not anything clandestine or secret about that. I insisted upon my right as the head of the department to say what should appear in my report, and I carried it out ; and I am in the judgment of Parliament under the rules of constitutional

government, whether I was right or not. Lord Dundonald talks about what is done in England. **WHO EVER HEARD OF A SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR BEING PLACED IN THE HUMILIATING POSITION OF HAVING A REPORT FROM HIS COMMANDER IN CHIEF OR SOME SUBORDINATE PLACED BEFORE PARLIAMENT AND BEFORE THE PEOPLE, HE SITTING DUMB IN HIS SEAT, WITHOUT BEING THE FIRST TO ANNOUNCE TO PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNTRY, AS IT IS HIS DUTY TO DO, THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH REFERENCE TO MILITARY MATTERS?** It is absurd, it is monstrous, and nothing could prove more clearly the absolute want of knowledge of that gentleman of the first principle of responsible government.

#### **ANOTHER CASE OF "INTERFERENCE"—ORGANIZATION OF THE ORDNANCE CORPS.**

Well, Sir, the "interference" still went on. The next instance of it was with reference to this celebrated ordnance corps, which has been so beautifully illustrated in a cartoon in one of the daily papers. What does he say about that? He says:

A more recent instance occurred in connection with the organization of the ordnance corps. The establishment of this corps was fixed at a colonel, a second in command — with the rank of lieutenant-colonel — and three lieutenant-colonels. This was a larger establishment than I would have recommended had I been unhampered; but Sir Frederick Borden was anxious to have a number of senior and highly-paid posts, and the scheme which he desired was carried out.

Soon after this I went to the Northwest.—  
Of course, I would not have dared to do this if he had been here—

—As soon as I had left Ottawa the Minister of Militia ordered the adjutant-general to prepare an order increasing the number of lieutenant-colonels to five, thus giving seven officers of the rank of lieutenant-colonel and upwards to a corps of about 100 men. In this connection it must be remembered that the most elementary requirements of militia were neglected for want of money.

Now, let us see about this. First, by way of parenthesis, let me refer to a corps d'elite, a corps in the organization of which the ex-General Officer Commanding has taken very great pride, and I believe it will be a valuable corps. It is a corps known as the Corps of Guides. It is composed of 407 of whom—will you believe it?—his own particular and special child—160 are officers and 302 non-commissioned officers and men; whereas in my poor, wretched attempt at a corps, called the ordnance corps, numbering 106, there are only 20 officers and 86 men. In the former one-third of the corps are officers; in my wretched imitation only one-fifth are officers. But that is only by the way. Now, I want to refer to this ordnance corps. We are told that it was devised and originated by me for the purpose of making some fat places for some favorites; and the insinuation is made that by promoting two men from the rank of major to the rank of lieutenant-colonel I was consequently increasing their pay.

No more misleading—I do not wish to say maliciously misleading—statement was ever put forward by any man. What are the facts? They are these. The ordnance corps was divided into districts. The districts were divided into first, second and third-class. The pay, no matter what be the rank, was according to the class of the district. There were five first-class districts. The pay of these officers was to be \$1,600 a year. There was a certain number of second-class districts, the pay in which was to be \$1,400 a year; and a certain number of third-class, in which the pay was to be \$1,000. To say, therefore, that the promotion of these two men from the rank of major to that of lieutenant-colonel was for the purpose of giving them additional pay, is a statement absolutely without foundation. **BUT IT IS MY CORPS, FORSOOTH! WHAT IS IT? THE ORDNANCE CORPS IS SIMPLY A BRANCH OF THE MILITIA WHICH HAS EXISTED EVER SINCE WE HAVE HAD A MILITIA—THE STORES BRANCH.** I explained the change to the House fully a year ago, and let me tell you that in this old stores branch of the militia, before it was organized into the ordnance corps, there were not seven but eleven lieutenant-colonels. I have here the report of the officer formerly at the head of the stores, and now at the head of the ordnance branch, and I think, especially in view of the small-sized accusations which are being made against me, that it is of sufficient importance to read. This paper, and, mind you, it was penned in June, 1903—a year ago—is entitled “Memo. for the Minister.”

Having reference to the organization of an Ordnance Stores Corps to be formed, as far as possible from the officers and other employees of the existing military stores staff of the department.

It is proposed to classify the different stations as first, second and third-class, according to relative importance as to work and responsibility ; thus Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec, will be rated as first-class ; London, St. John, N.B., and Halifax as second-class ; and Victoria, Winnipeg and Charlottetown as third-class stations.

It is also proposed that the pay of the officers at the several stations shall correspond with their duties and responsibilities. Thus it will be station and not the rank in the militia which will govern the amount of pay.

It is suggested that the officers of the first-class stations should rank as lieutenant-colonels, those of the second-class as majors, and those of the third-class as captains in the militia.

It should be understood that the duties of the officers, whilst they necessarily command the men at the respective stations, are almost wholly administrative.

Mr. HAGGART. Did it increase the expenditure any ?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Very trifling. As to the rate of pay :

Comparing the proposed pay of the ordnance officers with that of the members of the civil service, it will be seen that that of the first-class ordnance officer is that of a first-class clerk of two years' standing, that of a second-class ordnance officer not equal to the maximum second-class clerk, and that of the third-class ordnance officer is the same as that of the third-class clerk. According to the present arrangements, the command of the corps will not entail any additional expense.

That is the statement of Colonel Macdonald, who is at the head of the stores. I have here, but will not trouble you with the reading of it, the report to council. I have here a document which shows the changes that were made after the senior officer of the ordnance corps had sent in his report to the General Officer Commanding. **IT TRANSPIRED THAT THE GEN.**

ERAL THOUGHT SEVEN LIEUTENANT-COLONELS TOO MANY, ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN ELEVEN BEFORE, AND FOR SOME REASON OR ANOTHER HE REDUCED THE LIEUTENANT-COLONELS OF THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT STATIONS IN CANADA, QUEBEC AND OTTAWA, FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONELS TO MAJORS. I have in my hand the report of the director-general of ordnance. The director-general of ordnance, under the English regulations and ours, reports to me direct as well as to the general. He is under the supervision of the general, but under the control of the Minister. I had not observed that in that report there was a change made, but my attention was called to the fact that two of the officers had been reduced. The change did not involve any reduction in their pay, for they got the same as before, but they were reduced from lieutenant-colonels to majors. As soon as I learnt that, I wrote this letter to Lord Aylmer, who was acting in the absence of Lord Dundonald :

November 24th, 1903.

Dear Lord Aylmer,—I am sorry to find that there is a discrimination among the officers of the Ordnance Corps holding the five senior positions in the first-class districts, and that three of them are lieutenant-colonels and two of them majors. Had I known this earlier I am sure I would have persuaded the General to treat them all alike, and I am writing you now to ask you to send at once to Council the recommendation for the necessary correction. I will take the full responsibility, and will write Lord Dundonald about the matter. I saw Lieutenant-Colonel Boulanger, in Quebec, who happens, owing to the date of his commission, to be either at the bottom of the list or next to it. He has been in command of a battery, has served, as you know, in South Africa, and in China, with distinction, and for that service holds the South African and Chinese medals, and was given the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He also has control of the stores in the largest and most important stores depot in the Dominion. Moreover, he happens to be a French-Canadian, and the only one among the five first-class appointments. Now, whatever may be done later on, when new and younger blood is introduced, I think no distinction should be made in the first-class appointments at the outset, and therefore

I ask you to be good enough to have the order amended and sent in to me for approval at once, so that it may go before Council.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) F. W. BORDEN.

Colonel Lord Aylmer,

Adjutant General,

Militia and Defence.

So much, then, for the ordnance corps. So much for the base use I am alleged to have made of my position as Minister of the Crown to create fat places for my friends. But it will be observed that not one cent more goes to these officers as lieutenant-colonels than would have gone to them as majors. But you will observe, Sir, that in this letter I say :

I will take full responsibility and will write Lord Dundonald about the matter.

As soon as Lord Dundonald returned, I asked Lord Aylmer to hand him this letter, and I am informed by Lord Aylmer, to whom I went a day or two ago for the letter, that it is in Lord Dundonald's possession to-day. With regard to the pay, just one word more. In the English service the director-general of ordnance receives annually \$10,227. In Canada he receives \$3,200. In England the assistant director-general receives \$3,896. In Canada he gets \$2,400. In England a first-class ordnance officer gets \$3,666, and in Canada \$1,600. These are the two highly-paid officials for whom I was seeking a job. In England a second-class ordnance officer gets \$2,626, and in Canada \$1,400. In England a third-class ordnance officer gets \$2,277, and in Canada \$1,000.

Now, Sir, with regard to over-officering of this corps of 86 men with 20 officers, of whom 7 are lieutenant-colonels—what are the facts? This corps is never brought together. It is not homogeneous. It is purely an administrative corps, scattered from Prince Edward Island on the one hand to British Columbia on the other. And these officers of higher rank control the stores in the chief stores districts in the Dominion—most responsible positions; those of the second rank have charge of the stores in the second-class districts, and those in the third rank have charge of the stores in the third-class districts.



### COLONEL GREGORY'S CASE.

This manifesto goes on to say that there was a certain Colonel Gregory whose case was a very bad one. And here again I would like to call your attention to the disingenuous character of this manifesto issued to the people of Canada :

The case of Colonel Gregory of the 2nd Dragoons has been placed before the public. The excellent work done by him during his term shows itself in the fine state to which he has brought his regiment. I was anxious, for the sake of the regiment, for reasons into which I need not go, **TO EXTEND HIS COMMAND FOR ANOTHER YEAR.**

Anybody reading that would infer that this proposed extension was the first extension. **ANYBODY READING THAT WILL BE SURPRISED WHEN I TELL HIM THAT COLONEL GREGORY HAS JUST ENDED A YEAR'S EXTENSION OF HIS COMMAND.** No one would infer that from the wording of the manifesto. And, therefore, I say it is disingenuous, and, I am afraid, intentionally misleading. What about this Gregory case? Under the provisions of the Militia Regulations we have a rule by which, after five years' service, the term of command ends automatically. That is one of the reforms that have been introduced into the militia in my time—at least, enforced in my time. **UNDER THE OLD RÉGIME, A MAN BECAME LIEUTENANT-COLONEL, AND THERE HE STAYED. AND SO WE HAD VENERABLE GENTLEMEN IN THE SERVICE—LOTS OF THEM—FINE MEN IN THEIR DAY, WHO HAD BEEN IN COMMAND OF THE SAME CORPS FOR THIRTY OR THIRTY-FIVE YEARS, AND WHO HAD NO IDEA OF RETIRING.** Well, for fear that this sudden change, this limitation of command might sometimes work injuriously, a regulation was framed to the effect that, for reasons to be given by the District Officer Commanding, the time of an officer might be extended for three years. That power is very seldom used. In my humble opinion it should never be used if that can be avoided. But where you have a case where the second in command is not qualified to take the position, then it becomes proper to exercise the power. It so happened in this case. The second in command was Dr. Ferguson, the son of a gentleman whom we all knew, at one time a Conservative member of Parliament and afterwards senator. Through some physical defect—disease of the throat, I believe—Dr. Ferguson had been unable to attend

the camp and unable to qualify : in fact, he could not speak above a whisper. It was hoped that he might recover, and the recommendation was sent in for the extension. That recommendation was for an extension for two years. When it came before me, I said : Why not—and this is my rule—extend for one year ? And, if at the end of that year there is no officer fit to take command, it is an easy matter to extend it for another year. The extension was given for one year. And before the year was ended, a capable officer, Major Glasgow, had qualified and had been promoted to the position of second in command ; and on the 12th of July—

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. A good day.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes.—On the 12th of July Major Glasgow will become commanding officer of the regiment. Where is the political interference in this case ? Where is the wrong in it ? **IT SEEMS TO ME THAT I WAS ACTING IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CORPS, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE OFFICERS BELOW MAJOR GLASGOW, WHO ARE LOOKING FOR PROMOTION, WHO ARE ANXIOUSLY, AND PROPERLY, LOOKING FOR PROMOTION, AS A REWARD FOR THEIR FAITHFUL SERVICE.** I am not ashamed of what I did in this case. I have done it over and over again, and I propose to do it over and over again, in the interest of the young and rising officers in the militia.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The hon. Minister (Sir Frederick Borden) has yet to make the statement that Major Glasgow was properly qualified for command.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I make that statement deliberately. He is officially qualified.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. He is not so reported.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I cannot help that. The papers can be produced, if necessary, and they will show that Colonel Otter and Colonel Lessard have both recommended and approved, and he has actually received the authority by Order in Council.

#### **A PETTY GRIEVANCE, WITHOUT CAUSE OR ORIGIN**

I had noted several points here which are scarcely worth taking up the time of the House with, except one. Over and over again, it has been stated by Lord Dundonald and his friends

that he had not been invited by me to make any statement with regard to what happened in Montreal ; and this is put forward as an excuse for sending a communication to a member of the Opposition to be read in the House, thus passing by the Minister. Well, I do not know what Lord Dundonald expected from me. He received my letter in which I called his attention to the report in the newspapers of what took place in Montreal. Surely that opened the door to the hon. gentleman to make to me any explanation he saw fit. He knew that I was seized of the fact that something had occurred at that banquet in Montreal ; he knew that I thought it demanded explanation. Surely there was his opportunity. What did he expect me to do ? Did he suppose that I would ask him to write a manifesto, for instance ? Did he expect that I would prescribe to him the particular method ? Why, I knew it would be a reflection upon the capacity of a man who has shown himself to be possessed of such enormous resources to indicate such a thing to him. He is a gentleman of patrician rank, a member of the House of Lords, a man of great experience in matters of etiquette. And for me, a humble Canadian, a plebian, an ordinary, every day colonial, to presume—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Why, Sir, it would have been arrant presumption on my part, but I gave him the opportunity, and I gave it to him at the very earliest moment that I had cognizance of what had occurred. It is not my fault that he did not take advantage of it in a constitutional manner.

**MY LORD MAKES A CHARGE OF CRASS "INDIFFERENCE" AND WANT OF SYMPATHY WITH THE MILITIA AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE MINISTER'S ANSWER TO THAT CHARGE.**

Now we come to the next stage, the indifference. He says :

This Government has shown crass indifference and want of sympathy with the militia of this country.

And he arraigns me on that account. Well, Sir, it may be that to increase the annual expenditure on the militia by some one and a half or two million dollars is a proof of crass indifference to the well-being of the militia, but I do not believe that the people will take that view. I have a list of the improvements

which we have made. I shall read it, but shall not enlarge upon it, although it is a theme upon which I could say a good deal. **OUR "INDIFFERENCE" TO THE WELFARE AND THE INTEREST OF THE MILITIA WAS SHOWN FIRST AND PERHAPS IN THE MOST MARKED MANNER, BY THE ADOPTION, WITHOUT FAIL, OF THE PRINCIPLE OF HAVING ANNUAL DRILL FOR THE WHOLE MILITIA OF THIS COUNTRY,** and we have had annual drill of the militia every year since I have had the honor to preside over the Militia Department.

**WE HAVE LIMITED,** as I said a moment ago, **THE TERM OF COMMANDING OFFICERS,** thereby giving young men—some of whom got to be old men up to 60 years of age, under the old regime, as first lieutenants—some hope that some day they will get a reward for the work they have done.

**WE ENFORCED THE ORDER WITH REGARD TO AGE.** Formerly we had lieutenant-colonels up to 65 and 70 years of age, but we have enforced the rules strictly, not only as to lieutenant-colonels, but as to majors, as to captains, and as to lieutenants, within the last six or seven years.

**WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A RESERVE LIST OF OFFICERS,** a most important improvement.

**WE HAVE ESTABLISHED CADET CORPS AND CADET BATTALIONS,** thereby enlisting the sympathies of the youth of the country and preparing them early in their career to do their duty later on, should it be necessary, in the defence of their country.

**WE APPOINTED A DEFENCE COMMISSION,** which sat here for many weeks, and which went very carefully into the question of defence, and propounded a scheme which has been adopted by the experts of the War Office, and by the people of this country, but for which I am bound to say two General Officers Commanding have had very little regard.

One illustration of the unworkable character of the present system of General Officer Commanding I think is worthy of note. The commission to which I have just referred, the defence committee, fixed upon a certain place for the establishment of a battery of guns for the defence of a certain place. I do not wish to mention the place, because that is secret, and should not be mentioned. General Hutton came shortly afterwards. He of course, had access to the secret report. He looked it over and said: "Oh, that is not the right place at all; it should go here."

So he fixed upon a place. General O'Grady Haly did not trouble himself very much with that. I think he was quite satisfied that the defence committee knew its business, but the recent acquisition, the gentleman of whose services we have recently deprived ourselves, looked into it, and he discovered a third place. Is it any wonder if the poor, perplexed Minister of Militia, having three different sets of advisers, is somewhat in doubt and inclined to hesitate before plunging the country into the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars. That battery has not been located yet.

**A GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL WAS SECURED** by this Government as a reward for the work done by the men who defended this country against the Fenian invasion.

**THE COLONIAL OFFICERS' DECORATION, THE LONG SERVICE DECORATION,** was secured for the militia of this country through the efforts of this Government.

**OFFICERS ARE NOW REQUIRED TO HAVE A MUCH HIGHER STATE OF QUALIFICATION.**

**THE MEDICAL SERVICE BRANCH OF THE MILITIA WAS ESTABLISHED BY THIS GOVERNMENT.**

**A MILITARY PENSION ACT,** by which the officers of the permanent force and the staff and all the men of the permanent militia will receive pensions was passed by this Parliament at the instance of this Government.

**A SCHOOL OF MUSKETRY** was established by this Government, one of the most important things in the interests of the militia that has ever been done in this country.

**RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS** are being encouraged all over the country, and enormous amounts of money up to \$100,000 a year are being expended in the construction of rifle ranges, so as to put in the hands of our people the means of making themselves efficient in the art of rifle shooting.

**THE CORPS OF GUIDES,** to which I referred a little while ago, has been established by this Government.

**THE ENGINEERING BRANCH** has been established.

**THE MILITARY STORES BRANCH** has been converted into the ordnance corps.

**A MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRANCH** has been organized as an additional permanent unit.

We hear a great deal in the manifesto about the unpreparedness of this country for war. **THE DOMINION ARSENAL**, the output of which was under a million rounds of cartridges a year, has been increased so that it has an output of 10,000,000 or 12,000,000, and its capacity is very considerably above that quantity.

We have succeeded in establishing in this country a **SMALL-ARMS FACTORY**, which at the present moment is turning out rifles, which will be able to supply the Government at the rate of 1,000 a month, and which has a capacity of double that quantity, if necessary.

We have established factories at which **STEEL WAGGONS, LIMBERS, ETC., FOR ARTILLERY**, are being manufactured in this country, instead of having to be manufactured in the old country, both at Quebec and in this city.

#### **CHARGE OF "INTERFERENCE" WITH THE COURSES OF INSTRUCTION—A SAMPLE OF CARTE BLANCHE IN DUNDONALD'S HANDS.**

So I might go on, but surely I have said enough to demonstrate to the satisfaction of any fair-minded man that we have not been indifferent to the needs of the militia of this country. This manifesto refers to my having interfered with the courses of instruction. I am sorry to weary the House with reference to this matter, but it seems to be necessary for me to do it. Some months ago Lord Dundonald came to me and said that it would be very much better if the educational branch of the service in relation to the officers could be put completely under his control, that it was rather tiresome to have to be going to council all the time to get any business through, and **IF I WOULD LET HIM HAVE CARTE BLANCHE**, to use the phrase of my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier, he could manage it—he could do it all. I had my doubts about it, because I felt that the Governor in Council, although often inconvenient, was rather a sound institution; and it took him a good many weeks, I think some months, to convince me. When at last I did acquiesce, I did it under protest, and with the distinct understanding that if the thing did not work we would revert to the old conditions. What has happened? I have not time to elaborate it, but as no doubt the discussion upon this subject will occur again, I will have an opportunity of letting you see that as a result of that mistake which I made in granting that extraordinary power, chaos reigns to-day in the Department of Militia in reference to matters of education.

The late General Officer Commanding says that I refused to grant certain courses of instruction he wanted to give in September. **LET ME TELL YOU THAT THE LATE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING THROUGH MILITIA ORDERS AND GENERAL ORDERS ABSOLUTELY CONTRADICTORY OF EACH OTHER, UNTIL HE HAS GOT NOW TWO OR THREE ABSOLUTELY CONTRADICTORY ORDERS GOVERNING THE SAME THING.** He need not worry. The courses of instruction which he recommended should take place in September will take place, but they will not take place until we get proper regulations passed to carry them into effect.

**A CENTRAL CAMP IS A GOOD IDEA, BUT THE BEST SITE MUST BE GOT FOR IT, AND WE MUST NOT BE IN TOO MUCH OF A HURRY IN CHOOSING ONE.**

But, Sir, he complains that I have refused to adopt a central camp, or rather he says that after adopting the principle, I have refused to carry it into effect. I have correspondence here which would show the reason why. I will not trouble the House with it to-night, but let me say that it was proposed to purchase or acquire a great tract of country, some twenty or thirty square miles or more in extent, upon which the central camp should be established, and where conditions similar to those which exist in time of war could be had, for the education chiefly of the officers of the militia of this country, to which a certain number of the men might be brought and all the officers to the number of thousands. **THE IDEA IS A GOOD ONE. I BELIEVE IN IT. I SAID SO LAST YEAR, I REPEAT IT NOW.** But, Sir, the expenditure involved in establishing that central camp will be very heavy. The buildings alone, estimated by Lord Dundonald himself, would cost \$100,000. If we succeed in getting a grant from either one of the local governments of the province in which we may decide to locate the central camp, the land granted would not cost much, but we will have to acquire by purchase a certain amount of land. Rifle ranges will have to be established in that camp; so that it will involve an expenditure of at least \$250,000 as the very best that can be done. Well, now, that is a somewhat serious expenditure. Then, we have not only that initial expenditure, but we have to consider the expenditure for transportation for ever, or for many years, because we are not going to construct



your central camp for a day or for a year. **IT IS A PERMANENT CAMP, AND WHEN YOU ESTABLISH IT YOU WANT TO LOOK FORWARD, YOU WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT, YOU WANT TO EXERCISE THE SAME CAUTION THAT ANY BUSINESS MAN WOULD IN MAKING A VERY HEAVY EXPENDITURE OF MONEY ; AND SURELY IT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AND AS NECESSARY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY TO EXERCISE DUE CAUTION, IT IS JUST AS MUCH THEIR DUTY AS IF THEY WERE DOING THIS WORK FOR THEMSELVES.** So Lord Dundonald made up his mind that we should locate this camp at Kazubazua, in the province of Quebec, near the line of railway running northward. I am favorably impressed with the location, but I have heard of others, and men in whose judgment I have confidence told me that they believed there were others. I have gone myself to the trouble of going to the Kazubazua district, I have gone to the Sharbot Lake district, I have gone to other districts, to examine and see for myself, as I think it is my duty to do, as the custodian, in this regard, of the public money, and in the interest of the people of Canada. **I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT WE MUST NOT BE IN TOO MUCH OF A HURRY, AND I REFUSED TO BE, TO USE THE PHRASE OF MY RIGHT HON. FRIEND, THE PRIME MINISTER, EITHER DRAGOONED OR STAMPEDED INTO SELECTING A SITE BEFORE I BELIEVE THAT SITE IS THE BEST THAT CAN BE GOT IN THE WHOLE WIDE DOMINION OF CANADA.**

#### **A GRIEVANCE CONCERNING THE PRINT OF PLACARDS FOR SHOWING CANADIANS HOW TO CUT DOWN TREES, AND THAT SORT OF THING.**

But he has a very serious grievance. He has in this great state document, this paper which is going to emancipate the people of this country from the domination of this vile Government, in this serious, sober document upon which the destinies of the nation hang, another grievous complaint against me. Why, he said he made some placards to hang up in the camps, and that I refused to have these placards reprinted this year.

Well, I did, and I will tell the House why. Last year, at a very considerable expenditure of money, placards, as he calls them, a kind of large map, illustrating different operations in

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engineering, cutting down trees, and all that kind of thing—rather superfluous information, perhaps, for the soldiers of Canada—various placards with various figures upon them were printed and distributed among the camps. But, Mr. Speaker, it turned out that when we had the services of an engineer, whom we had borrowed from the Imperial service at Halifax, it turned out that these placards were wrong. And so His Lordship, who is so very anxious about the expenditure of public money that he was afraid that I was giving some favorites of mine small increases of salary by promoting them from majors to lieutenant-colonels—which was not true, all the same—he coolly sends down these amended, improved, corrected—that is the proper phrase—corrected placards, and asked us to do it all over again. Well, I thought a good deal about the placards, as I did about the guns which were to be located at one of three places that these experts have selected. **I FELT I WOULD WAIT UNTIL I COULD GET HOLD OF SOME ONE WHO KNEW HOW TO MAKE PLACARDS BEFORE I WOULD SPEND ANY MORE OF THE PUBLIC MONEY OF CANADA ON THEM.** I am sorry these placards were bad and were wrong, because I am afraid that some erroneous ideas may have got into the heads of the soldiers who went to the camps last year. I only hope they will come back long enough to see the corrected placards, which I hope—when we get the benefit of the services of a practical militia council in this country sitting around the board and aiding and assisting the Minister of Militia, whoever he may be—we will be able to fix the places where guns are to be put, and to make placards which won't have to be corrected the next year. So much for this serious complaint as to the placards.

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Now, Sir, we have heard a good deal in this manifesto about the system. He is exposing the system ; the system is a bad one. All of this letter is for the purpose of showing that we are living, as he says, in a fool's paradise, and under a system which is absolutely wrong. Well, I have a letter here which is very short, and which I would like to read, with regard to this very same much-abused system. Here is a letter which was addressed to me by this same noble lord, after he came to Canada. It is headed from the Three Rivers camp, and is dated September 15th, 1902 :

Dear Sir Frederick Borden,—I am considering the permanent corps matter and also other questions to bring before you later on. At the moment I am very fully occupied with the camps. So far, I may say, they have been a success, and **I DO NOT THINK I CAN IMPROVE MUCH ON THE SYSTEM ADOPTED.**

The system in vogue then was more particularly due to the industry and ability of General O'Grady-Haly, and Lord Dundonald says of that system, the system which was in actual operation—because these camps were actually going on when he came here ; he did not call these camps together at all ; possibly this camp may have been called later, but the Ontario camps were going on at the time he came—he says :

So far, I may say, they have been a success, and I do not think I can improve much on the system adopted, so far as the means at my disposal have permitted.

So much, then, for this system, which, if persisted in, is going to destroy any prospect this country may have of ever being able to defend itself.

#### **A FINAL WORD ON TWO DUNDONALD DOCUMENTS.**

Well, now, Sir, one word in conclusion. What was the intention of this document ? Was the object of the document to make the militia of this country feel satisfied and comfortable and happy ? Was its object sincerely to improve the condition of the militia ? Was it not rather to sow discord ? Was it not rather to breed in the ranks of the militia the idea that the men responsible for the government of this country, the men chiefly responsible for the care of the militia in this country, was utterly and absolutely disregarding the interests of the militia ? Is that a high and noble object for a high and noble gentleman to pursue ?

**MR. SPEAKER, THE MILITIA OF THIS COUNTRY ARE THE EVERY-DAY CITIZENS OF CANADA.** We have no army ; the militia are the people—good, practical, common sense people—who can see through motives of interested persons about as quickly as any people in this world. And these people will look very carefully to see whether the professions contained in that document, of good-will towards them, are real and genuine, or whether they are not. They will look at the

document with suspicion, having learned, as they have now, of its utterly unreliable and disingenuous character. **I HAVE FAITH, I HAVE ALWAYS HAD FAITH IN THE GOOD COMMON SENSE OF THE MILITIA OF CANADA. THEY ARE NOT GOING TO BE DISSUADED FROM THEIR DUTY OR STAMPEDED INTO ANY UNFAIR OR UNJUST COURSE. THEY WILL LOOK INTO THE MERITS OF THIS WHOLE QUESTION, AND I INVITE THEM TO DO SO MOST CAREFULLY AND MOST FULLY. I AM PREPARED TO STAND BY THE VERDICT OF THE PEOPLE, WHATEVER IT MAY BE, BUT I HAVE NO FEAR AS TO WHAT THAT VERDICT WILL BE.**

I was asked a question about the report, and before I sit down I would like to deal with it. I said last year, and I repeat now, that I would be most gratified and delighted to submit to a committee composed of any gentlemen on both sides of this House who are interested, any matters of this kind. I think I have some right to speak in this matter ; I am charged with the responsibility, I say, and any military man knows that it is not desirable—I do not care what Lord Dundonald may say ; I believe he knows better—**IT IS NOT DESIRABLE TO PUBLISH TO THE WORLD EITHER YOUR STRENGTH OR YOUR WEAKNESS.** And, Sir, I think that the publication of this paper, especially as it does not correctly represent the facts, would be a most unpatriotic act. But, Sir, I am prepared to submit the report at any time to a committee. I do not at the present moment think that it should be published to the world ; but the committee may be made as large as necessary, with the understanding that the document is being submitted for confidential consideration.